



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EL PASO WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON METH CHARGE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland this morning, 26-year-old Anna Lilia Santacruz of El Paso was sentenced to 262 months in federal prison for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered that Santacruz be placed under supervised release for a period of ten years after completing her prison term.

On March 20, 2007, a jury sitting in Midland convicted Santacruz of the drug charge. Testimony at trial established that on October 6, 2005, Renita Tarango of Pecos, Texas, was stopped by a Department of Public Safety trooper on Interstate-20 in Ward County, Texas. The trooper discovered she was in possession of 2.7 pounds of methamphetamine. Testimony further established that the methamphetamine was destined for distribution in Austin, and that Santacruz had arranged for Tarango to transport the methamphetamine load from Juarez, as well as a load of similar size the week before that was not intercepted.

Tarango is currently serving a 70-month federal prison sentence for her role in the offense.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Ector County Sheriff's Office. John Klassen prosecuted for the Government.

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